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CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof:

(I)

wherein:

one of Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , Z^4 and Z^5 is N, and the remainder are CR^{1a} ;

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 R^1 and R^{1a} are independently hydrogen; hydroxy; (C_{1-6}) alkoxy optionally substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkoxy, amino, piperidyl, guanidino or amidino optionally N-substituted by one or two (C_{1-6}) alkyl, acyl or (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl groups, $CONH_2$, hydroxy, thiol, (C_{1-6}) alkylthio, heterocyclyloxy, arylthio, aryloxy, acylthio, acyloxy or (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyloxy; (C_{1-6}) alkoxy-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl; halogen; (C_{1-6}) alkyl; (C_{1-6}) alkylthio; nitro; azido; acyl; acyloxy; (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl; (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphoxide; arylsulphonyl; arylsulphoxide or an amino, piperidyl, guanidino or amidino group optionally N-substituted by one or two (C_{1-6}) alkyl, acyl or (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl groups; and

- additionally when Z⁵ is CR^{1a}, R^{1a} may be (C₁₋₄)alkyl-CO₂H or (C₁₋₄)alkyl-CONH₂ in which the C₁₋₄ alkyl is substituted by R¹²; (C₁₋₄)alkyl substituted by cyano, amino or guanidino; aminocarbonyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)
- 6)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl, or CH(R¹³)CO₂H or CH(R¹³)CO₂NH₂ optionally further substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl; carboxy; cyano or (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl;

wherein R^{13} is a natural α -amino acid side chain or its enantiomer;

provided that when Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , Z^4 and Z^5 are CR^{1a} , then R^1 is not hydrogen;

 R^2 is hydrogen, or (C_{1-4}) alkyl or (C_{1-4}) alkenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from:

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amino optionally substituted by one or two (C₁₋₄)alkyl groups; carboxy; (C₁₋₄) 4)alkoxycarbonyl; (C₁₋₄)alkylcarbonyl; (C₂₋₄)alkenyloxycarbonyl; (C₂₋ 4)alkenylcarbonyl; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by $hydroxy, (C_{1-4})alkyl, \, hydroxy(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkenyl, \, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkenyl, \, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkyl, \, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkyl, \, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkyl, \, (C_{2-4})alkyl,$ (C_{1-4}) alkylsulphonyl, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, (C_{1-4}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-4}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-4}) 5 4)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₄)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₄)alkenyloxycarbonyl or (C₂₋ 4)alkenylcarbonyl; cyano; tetrazolyl; 2-oxo-oxazolidinyl optionally substituted by R10; 3hydroxy-3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione-4-yl; 2,4-thiazolidinedione-5-yl; tetrazol-5ylaminocarbonyl; 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl optionally substituted by R¹⁰; 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl; thiol; halogen; (C₁₋₄)alkylthio; trifluoromethyl; azido; hydroxy optionally 10 substituted by (C_{1-4}) alkyl, (C_{2-4}) alkenyl, (C_{1-4}) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_{1-4}) alkylcarbonyl, (C_{2-4}) alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C_{2-4}) alkenylcarbonyl; oxo; (C_{1-4}) alkylsulphonyl; (C_{2-4}) 4)alkenylsulphonyl; or (C1-4)aminosulphonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₄)alkyl or (C₂₋₄)alkenyl;

R³ is hydrogen; or R³ is in the 2-, 3- or 4-position and is:

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carboxy; (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyl; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by hydroxy, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, hydroxy (C_{1-6}) alkyl, aminocarbonyl (C_{1-6}) alkyl, (C_{2-6}) alkenyl, (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkenylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl

- 6)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl and optionally further substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; cyano; tetrazolyl; 2-oxo-oxazolidinyl optionally substituted by R¹⁰; 3-hydroxy-3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione-4-yl; 2,4-
- thiazolidinedione-5-yl; tetrazol-5-ylaminocarbonyl; 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl optionally substituted by R ¹⁰; or 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl; or (C₁₋₄)alkyl or ethenyl substituted with any of the substituents listed above for R³ and up to 3 groups R ¹² independently selected from:

thiol; halogen; (C₁₋₆)alkylthio; trifluoromethyl; azido; (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl;

(C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl; hydroxy optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl or aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl; amino optionally mono- or disubstituted by (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl or aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted

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by (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkyl, hydroxy (C_{1-6}) alkyl, aminocarbonyl (C_{1-6}) alkyl, (C_{2-6}) alkenyl, (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkylcarbonyl, (C_{2-6}) alkenyloxycarbonyl or (C_{2-6}) alkenylcarbonyl and optionally further substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkyl, hydroxy (C_{1-6}) alkyl, aminocarbonyl (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; oxo; (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl; (C_{2-6}) alkenylsulphonyl; or (C_{1-6}) aminosulphonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; in addition when (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; in addition when (C_{2-6}) alkyl or (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; or amino containing substituent and carboxy containing substituent these may together form a cyclic ester or amide linkage, respectively; or

when R³ is in the 3- or 4-position it may with R² or R⁴ form a C₃₋₅ alkylene group optionally substituted by a group R⁵ selected from:

 (C_{1-12}) alkyl; hydroxy (C_{1-12}) alkyl; (C_{1-12}) alkoxy (C_{1-12}) alkyl; (C_{1-12}) alkyl; (C_{1-12}) alkyl; (C_{3-6}) cycloalkyl; hydroxy (C_{3-6}) cycloalkyl; (C_{1-12}) alkyl; $(C_{1-12}$

15 12)alkoxy(C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl; (C₁₋₁₂)alkanoyloxy(C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl; (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; hydroxy-, (C₁₋₁₂)alkoxy- or (C₁₋₁₂)alkanoyloxy-(C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; cyano; cyano(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₂₋₁₂)alkenyl; (C₂₋₁₂)alkynyl; tetrahydrofuryl; mono- or di-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; acylamino(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl- or acyl-aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; mono- or di- (C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(hydroxy) (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl; mono- or di- (C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(hydroxy) (C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(hydroxy)

12)alkyl; optionally substituted phenyl(C_{1-12})alkyl, phenoxy(C_{1-12})alkyl or phenyl(hydroxy)(C_{1-12})alkyl; optionally substituted diphenyl(C_{1-12})alkyl; optionally substituted benzoyl or benzoyl(C_{1-12})alkyl; optionally substituted benzoyl or benzoyl(C_{1-12})alkyl; optionally substituted heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-12})alkyl; and optionally substituted heteroaroyl or heteroaroyl(C_{1-12})alkyl;

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 R^4 forms a group with R^3 as above defined, or is a group -CH2- R^5 where R^5 is as defined above:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

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A is NR¹¹ or CR⁶R⁷ and B is NR¹¹, O, SO₂ or CR⁸R⁹ and wherein: each of R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ is independently selected from: hydrogen; (C_{1-6}) alkylthio; halo; trifluoromethyl; azido; (C_{1-6}) alkyl; (C_{2-6}) alkenyl; (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyl; (C_{1-6}) alkylcarbonyl; (C_{2-6}) alkenyloxycarbonyl; (C_{2-6}) alkenyloxycarbonyl; hydroxy, amino or aminocarbonyl optionally substituted as for corresponding substituents in R³; (C_{1-6}) alkylsulphonyl; (C_{2-6}) alkenylsulphonyl; or (C_{1-6}) aminosulphonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{1-6}) alkenyl;

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or R^6 and R^8 together represent a bond and R^7 and R^9 are as above defined; or R^6 and R^7 or R^8 and R^9 together represent oxo;

provided that:

when A is NR¹¹, B is not NR¹¹, O or SO₂;
when A is CO, B is not CO, O or SO₂;
when n is 0 and A is NR¹¹, CR⁸R⁹ can only be CO;
when A is CR⁶R⁷ and B is SO₂, n is 0;
when n is 0, B is not NR¹¹ or O; and
when A-B is CR⁷=CR⁹, n is 1 or 2;

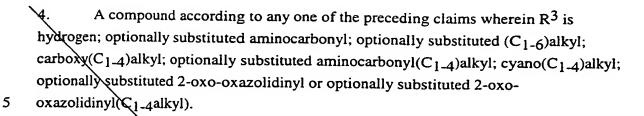
 R^{10} is selected from (C_{1-4}) alkyl; (C_{2-4}) alkenyl and aryl any of which may be optionally substituted by a group R^{12} as defined above; carboxy; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by hydroxy, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, (C_{2-6}) alkenyl, (C_{1-6})

- 6)alkylsulphonyl, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl and optionally further substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl; trifluoromethylsulphonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl; and (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl;
 - R^{11} is hydrogen; trifluoromethyl, (C_{1-6}) alkyl; (C_{1-6}) alkenyl; (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyl; (C_{1-6}) alkylcarbonyl; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkylcarbonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C_{2-6}) alkylcarbonyl, (C_{2-6})
- 6)alkenylcarbonyl, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{1-6}) alkenyl and optionally further substituted by (C_{1-6}) alkyl or (C_{1-6}) alkenyl.
 - 2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein:
 - (a) Z^1 is N, and Z^2 - Z^5 are CH,
 - (b) Z1-Z5 are each CH, or

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- (c) Z^5 is N, and Z^1 - Z^4 are CH.
- 3. A compound according to claim 1 of 2 wherein R¹ and R^{1a} are independently methoxy, amino(C₃₋₅)alkyloxy, guanidino(C₃₋₅)alkyloxy, piperidyl(C₃₋₅)alkyloxy, nitro or fluoro.



- 5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R³ is in the 3-position and the substitutents at the 3- and 4-position of the piperidine ring are cis.
- 6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein A is NH and B is CO, or A is CHOH and B is CHO
 - 7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R¹¹ is hydrogen.
 - 8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^4 is (C_{5-12}) alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl (C_{2-3}) alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl (C_{3-4}) alkenyl.
- A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a
 pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 10. A method of treatment of bacterial infections in mammals which method comprises the administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

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